

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water-absorbent resin, wherein said process comprises:

- a) polymerizing to completion an α,β unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer to produce a polymerized water-containing gelated product;
- b) adding a metal chelating agent at any step in the preparation of a the water-absorbent resin, wherein said water absorbent resin is made from an α,β unsaturated carboxylic acid as an essential monomer, and wherein said metal chelating agent is added in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and
- c) adding a reducing agent or an oxidizing agent thereto to the polymerized water-containing gelated product in an amount of 0.001 to 6 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the α,β -unsaturated carboxylic acid; and
- d) before initiation of drying and/or during drying of a the gelated product containing a water absorbent resin obtained by polymerization, thereby yielding a polymerized water-absorbent resin having greater discoloration resistance than a polymerized water-absorbent resin having no reducing or oxidizing agent and no metal chelating agent added thereto.

2. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is a sulfite, a hydrogensulfite, a dithionite or a pyrosulfite.

3. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.

4. (Original) The process for preparing a water-absorbent resin according to claim 1, wherein the metal chelating agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid, trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, tripolyphosphoric acid, and salts thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) A water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the water-absorbent resin has Yellow Index of 12 or less, after allowing to stand at 50°C and 90% relative humidity for 20 days.

6. (Original) An absorbent comprising a water-absorbent resin obtained by the process of any one of claims 1 to 4, and a hydrophilic fiber.

7. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent of claim 6, wherein the absorbent is kept between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.

8. (Cancelled)